

EXHIBIT

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48 Aging

My name is Nancy Gibson and I am the Director of the Belmont Senior Citizens Center in Butte, MT. First of all I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

I would like to talk about a program the Belmont Senior Citizens Center started this year with the help of Adult Protective Services Contingency Funds.

"What if nobody wanted you?" What if you had a stepson in the Midwest and a niece in the state of Montana? What if one day you were in your niece's home and the next she drove you to Butte and checked you into a motel and left?

You have no car, no friends, and you are diabetic without the ability to keep your meds straight.

What is wrong with this guy? Well he isn't exactly someone who would win Favorite Uncle of the Month but he can't function on his own.

About a year ago this gentleman found the Belmont seeking help. At that time we were in the process of forming a Guardianship Committee. But were not ready to take clients so we helped him find an apartment and because he had money he found many friends, not what you would call friends looking after your best interest because they were too busy looking at your pocket book.

In the meantime, with the help of Adult Protective Services the Belmont was able to form a Guardianship Committee who could be a guardian for senior citizens who do not have family to take care of them. We have a committee of five people under the umbrella of the Belmont, which is a non-profit organization.

With the money we receive from Contingency Funds we were able to pay for our liability insurance. We have also visited other agencies in the state that take guardianships. This summer we drew up our by laws and policy and procedures.

Last summer our friend was found wandering the streets and very weak. Now we were ready to take our first guardianship case. Adult Protective Services petitioned the court recommending that we become a guardian for our friend. Today he is back on his medicine; very happy to have a warm, safe place to call home and his money is protected for only his care. Finally someone cares and he is content.

I would like to request that you take into consideration all the good things the contingency money does in the hands of APS and fund this money again this year.

Nancy Gibson
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